

EP 12: LEFT BEHIND

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Kirsty Woolven:

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[Theme music]

DIPA: Observer Pictures presents Apollyon, written and directed by Faith McQuinn. This is episode 12, Left Behind.

[Hip hop music blasts then fades into headphones]

Kate:

Gabe? Gabe? Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you.

Gabriel:

No, I'm sorry, I shouldn't be listening so loud. I was just trying to get some work done.

Kate:

It's okay. Sometimes you need to tune out.

Gabriel:

Is everything all right? Link's okay?

Kate:

Yeah, yeah. I finally got him down for a nap. He's been really fussy lately.

Gabriel:

Maybe he's teething or having a growth spurt. One of those.

Kate:

Maybe.

Gabriel:

You going somewhere?

Kate:

What?

Gabriel:

The bag. You going somewhere?

Kate:

Oh. Yes. I thought I would go to the gym for a little while. I haven't been since Lincoln was born, and I could really use some me-time.

Gabriel:
Sounds good. You always feel better after a run.

[Lincoln cries]

Kate:
Yeah. Damn it.

Gabriel:
I got him, I got him.

[They both walk down the hall. The crying grows louder.]

Gabriel:
Hey little man. It's okay. Daddy's gotcha. You need to give Mama a break, yes, you do.

Kate:
You're so good with him. It takes me so long to get him to settle.

Gabriel:
I just get lucky sometimes, don't I? Go ahead, Kate, I got him.

Kate:
I know you do.

Gabriel:
Bye-bye, Mama. Have a good workout.

[Lincoln coos. Gabriel laughs.]

Kate:
Thank you. I know you're busy with school, but I really need this.

Gabriel:
Oh, I can get my work done later. You and Link always come first.

Kate:
You're too good for me. You know that?

Gabriel:
I'm just doing what you've done for me so many times.

Kate:
I love you.

Gabriel:
Love you too.

Kate:
Bye, Link. Be good for Daddy.

[Automatic doors close]

Gabriel: Fuck!

[Gabriel throws things from his desk and yells in frustration.]

ICRS Computer:
Horatio Luna paging Theodora Ramsey.

Gabriel: Hmm.

ICRS Computer:
Horatio Luna paging Theodora Ramsey.

Gabriel:
Connect. What's up, Horatio?

Horatio:
Hey, Dr. Larson. Are you and Dr. Ramsey headed this way?

Gabriel:
Dr. Ramsey has a prior engagement. I'll be there in a few.

Horatio: Ah, cool.

Gabriel:
It's fine. It's fine. Everything's fine.

Milgrim:
After a short discussion with my team, we've decided to combine phase one and phase two, which means we'll be testing the initial safety of 6129, as well as testing the immune response.

Horatio:
Does this mean we'll be dealing with 50 to 70 subjects?

Milgrim:
We're going to make it an even hundred.

Horatio:
Okay, and the subjects' age range?

Milgrim:
That will stay between 25 and 45 years of age. As I said before, we must protect—

Gabriel:
Protect our young people, I remember. On that note, do you anticipate more on the older side or the younger side?

Milgrim:
I have no anticipations on the ages of our test subjects. We're looking for healthy people who are happy to do their part in keeping the world safe.

Gabriel:
Are parental statuses a factor?

Milgrim:
Why would they be?

Gabriel:
Well, you are very adamant that the DHH wants to protect youth.

Milgrim:
All of the ICERS wants to protect everyone, Dr. Larson, but especially our younger population.

Gabriel:
Right, right, but if you're... We're so adamant about this protection, wouldn't it be wrong to involve parents?

Milgrim:
Dr. Larson, where is Dr. Ramsey today?

Gabriel:
She had a prior engagement.

Milgrim:
I hope she won't make it a habit of missing our meetings!

Gabriel:
I hope so too. I've answered your question. How about you answer mine?

Milgrim:
Dr. Luna? Does Dr. Larson speak to all of his superiors this way?

Gabriel:
You are not my superior.

Milgrim:
That doesn't mean you shouldn't show me respect.

Gabriel:
I don't think I've been disrespectful. Horatio, have I been disrespectful?

Horatio:
Uh...

Milgrim:
It would be wrong not to allow those who wish to serve the opportunity to do so. Therefore, we are putting no restrictions on parental status.

Gabriel:
Thank you.

Milgrim:
Any more questions before I continue?

Gabriel:
Oh, not for me, please, go on.

Horatio:
I don't. I'm good.

Milgrim:
Thank you. Now, while my team will be in charge of finding the candidates, your team will...

[Victoria and Gabriel walk outside at night]

Victoria:
You seem distant.

Gabriel:
Were you talking about something?

Victoria:
No, but I think you've proven my hypothesis.

Gabriel: I'm sorry.

Victoria:
What's on your mind?

Gabriel: Nothing.

Victoria:
Clearly.

Gabriel:
We're in the early stages of the clinical trials and it's new territory.

Victoria:
New and very exciting territory, right?

Gabriel:
Mm-hmm.

Victoria:
I assume it's also a bit overwhelming?

Gabriel:
Kind of. Remember the conversation we had a few days ago when you told me I needed to work the problem?

Victoria:
Yeah.

Gabriel:
I don't know how to work this one.

Victoria:
I'm no virologist, but can I help?

Gabriel:
It's not really a virology-specific problem.

Victoria:
Ah. Well, maybe that means I can help you more than I thought? Even if I'm simply a sounding board.

Gabriel:
Well, I guess that's true.

Victoria:
Should we sit? There's a bench over there.

Gabriel:
Sure.

Victoria:
Okay. What's the problem?

Gabriel:
Something interesting happened at the lab today.

Victoria:
Can you be more specific, or are we talking in broad terms?

Gabriel:
It's not classified. Theo left.

Victoria:
Left the lab?

Gabriel:
Left campus. As in, walked out this morning and did not come back.

Victoria:
I'm sorry, what?

Gabriel:
We... This study isn't going the way we thought it would. I think we can work through it, but she doesn't think it's possible.

Victoria:
So she just left?

Gabriel:
Yes.

Victoria:
Without talking it out or anything?

Gabriel:
Oh, no, we talked about it. Yelled is more accurate.

Victoria:
Is she coming back?

Gabriel:
I don't know.

Victoria:
You haven't spoken to her?

Gabriel:
No. I didn't think that was the smartest play. Most of the yelling was on my side.

Victoria:
Oh.

Gabriel:
I really fucked this up.

Victoria:
Maybe. Maybe not. You two have had disagreements before.

Gabriel:
Not often, but we do have them. The last one was right before her mother died.

Victoria:
You're probably right to give her some space.

Gabriel:
Of course, but Vicky, this one... It's not the same. I'm not sure if I'm giving her space or... It's just not the same.

Victoria:
Everything seems the worst in the moment.

Gabriel:
Right.

Victoria:
Was this a personal disagreement or a scientific one?

Gabriel:
It pertains to our project, but it's definitely a bit on the personal side. Then again, we're both pretty terrible at separating work and our personal life, so...

Victoria:
Uh-huh. I admit, I am quite curious about what you two disagreed on in regards to your project, but I won't pry. I know what you do is mostly need-to-know.

Gabriel:
Thank you.

Victoria:
But does it relate to your study?

Gabriel:
Yes.

Victoria:
Okay. This might be overstepping, but if she can't handle the pressure, maybe it's best that she gets out of the way.

Gabriel:
Theo handles pressure better than anyone I know. In fact, she thrives under it.

Victoria:
Walking out on the job is what you call thriving?

Gabriel:
Well, you don't understand.

Victoria:
Oh, of course I wouldn't understand pressure. It's not as if I'm a Black woman working in biology. Oh, wait!

Gabriel:
I put my foot in my mouth on that one.

Victoria:
Just a smidge, yeah.

Gabriel:
See, I didn't-

Victoria:
Theo and I and other women like us have been scrutinized our entire careers, but we form a thick skin, and get through it.

Gabriel:
I know that I will never fully understand what you've gone through, but this isn't about that, Vicky, okay? The study is very different, okay? The expectations of us exceed anything we've ever faced before.

Victoria:
That's why I'm surprised she walked away instead of standing with you. Your partner left. Maybe the pressure has become too much.

Gabriel:
She needed to think.

Victoria:
She should have discussed it with you, Gabriel. Walking out because she doesn't agree with something is not only unprofessional, it's weak.

Gabriel:
What's weak is judging someone who isn't here to defend herself.

Victoria:
You're right. I'm being a bit harsh. It doesn't mean I'm wrong.

Gabriel:
But you are. She's not weak, she never will be.

Victoria:
You don't always have to be Theo's knight in shining armor. You know that, right?

Gabriel:
What is that supposed to mean?

Victoria:
Oh, come on, Gabriel. You obviously disagree with her actions, and yet you sit here vehemently defending her honor. Theo is flawless in your eyes. Can't even get close to the pedestal you put her on.

Gabriel:
She's my best friend.

Victoria:
She's more than that and you know it.

Gabriel:
It's not like that.

Victoria:
I know. I also know that no matter how much I hate doing it, I will always compare myself to her, and that's not fair to you, to her, to me. I'm sorry that she walked away. I'm sorry that it is obviously hurting you so much, but if she decides to leave the ICRS, you need to think about what happens next for you.

Gabriel:
She's not going to leave.

Victoria:
Gabriel, you don't know that.

Gabriel:
She's not going to leave! She's never left me.

Victoria:
Okay.

Gabriel:
I think I should go back to my place tonight.

Victoria:
Are you sure?

Gabriel:
Yeah. I think I need a little time alone.

Victoria:
If you think that's a good idea.

Gabriel:
It's been a rough day, and I just... Thank you for dinner.

Victoria:
Of course.

Gabriel:
Maybe we can have lunch tomorrow?

Victoria:
Let me think about it.

Gabriel:
Right.

Victoria:
Get some rest, okay?

Gabriel:
Yeah.

Victoria:
Good night.

Gabriel:
Good night.

[Phone rings]

Gabriel:
Kate? Kate, is that you?

Kate:
It's me.

Gabriel:
Thank God, I thought... When you didn't come back, I thought maybe you got caught up in that lockdown, but then you didn't call, and you wouldn't answer. I've been so worried.

Kate:
I'm all right.

Gabriel:
I called everybody. I called the police. Nobody knew what happened, I thought you were dead.

Kate:
Oh, shit. I'm sorry, I know I should have called you sooner.

Gabriel:
Where are you?

Kate:
I'd rather not say.

Gabriel:
What? What do you mean, "you'd rather not say"? Are you in trouble?

Kate:
No. Nothing like that. Gabe, I'm not in Atlanta anymore.

Gabriel:
What? How did you...

Kate:
I applied for a flight visa a few months ago.

Gabriel:
Flight? Months? I'm so... What? I'm confused, I'm so confused. What's going on?

Kate:
I don't think I can do this anymore.

Gabriel:
Do what? Are you sure you're not in trouble?

Kate:
This whole mothering thing, it's too much!

Gabriel:
This mothering "thing"?

Kate:
Lincoln's better with you!

Gabriel:
What are you talking, baby? Where are you?

Kate:
I love you, I really do. That's why I'm doing this.

Gabriel:
That's why you're doing what?

Kate:
I'm not coming back.

Gabriel:
Kate, what-

Kate:
Please don't look for me.

Gabriel:
What the fuck?

Kate:
I promise I'm safe.

Gabriel:
Kate!

Kate:
Bye, Gabe.

Gabriel:
Kate. Kate!

[A blender runs as a door closes in the background]

Lincoln:
Dad?

Gabriel:
In the kitchen!

Lincoln:
Wow, it smells good in here. I thought you were on a date.

Gabriel:
I was.

Lincoln:
Not to make it weird, but I figured you wouldn't be home until morning?

Gabriel:
Well, too late, you made it weird.

Lincoln:
What're you making?

Gabriel:
Brownies. I'm trying a new recipe.

Lincoln:
Ooh, for Christmas dinner?

Gabriel:
No, I got home and figured I could whip these up for us.

Lincoln:
Cookies?

Gabriel:
Yeah. Oatmeal pecan. Want one? I know you like them straight out of the oven.

Lincoln:
What's going on?

Gabriel:
What do you mean?

Lincoln:
It's 9:00 on a weeknight and you're baking. A lot.

Gabriel:
This isn't a lot, it's just...

Lincoln:
Two dozen cookies and a pan of brownies? Dad, what's up? Is something going on with you and Victoria?

Gabriel:
Vicky and I are fine.

Lincoln:
Then it's work.

Gabriel:
Work is fine.

Lincoln:
Then what is it?

Gabriel:
Why does it have to be anything?

Lincoln:
Because you don't overcook unless you're stressed. This is overcooking.

Gabriel:
Who exactly is the parent in this relationship?

Lincoln:
I'm allowed to be worried about my dad, aren't I?

Gabriel:
Of course you are, but there's nothing to worry about.

Lincoln:
Right.

Gabriel:
I'm fine, Link.

Lincoln:
If you won't talk to me about it, call Theo or something, okay? I'll be in my room.

Gabriel:
Shit. DIPA, call Theo Ramsey, voice only.

DIPA:
Calling Theo Ramsey.

Theo: (over phone)
You've reached Dr. Theo Ramsey. I'm unable to take your call at the moment...

Gabriel:
End call. Shit.

[Theo packs a box. The automatic door opens and closes.]

Gabriel:
You're here.

Theo:
I'm sorry, I thought I'd be done before you got in.

Gabriel:
What are you doing?

Theo:
Gathering my things.

Gabriel:
What the fuck are you... Are you actually leaving?

Theo:
I'm moving to Annabelle and Horatio's office. Horatio is going to move in here.

Gabriel:
Why?

Theo:
Can we talk about this another time?

Gabriel:
No!

Theo:
Gabriel, I have things I need to do.

Gabriel:
Yeah, we have a meeting with Milgrim in an hour.

Theo:
You have a meeting with Milgrim in an hour. It's all in the email I sent.

Gabriel:
Why don't you just tell me what's going on?

Theo:
I'm going to work with Annabelle on encoding viral proteins, and you're taking the lead on the clinical study.

Gabriel:
And Weiss is good with this?

Theo: Yes.

Gabriel:
And when was I going to know this information?

Theo:
When you read the email.

Gabriel:
At what point did you decide I worked for you instead of with you?

Theo:
I never-

Gabriel:
Vicky was right.

Theo:
You talked to Victoria about this?

Gabriel:
Yes. She's my partner. And she said that what you're doing is unprofessional and weak.

Theo:
You think I'm being weak?

Gabriel:
You would never make a big decision like this without talking to me.

Theo:
We did talk. Quite intensely, as I recall. I never thought you would choose the work over the people.

Gabriel:
Isn't that what you've done? You wouldn't be here otherwise.

Theo:
Well, you said it best. We developed 6129. We should be here to see it through.

Gabriel:
We should be here. The both of us.

Theo:
I'm not leaving the program.

Gabriel:
Yeah, just me.

Theo:
I'm not leaving you!

Gabriel:
You tried to sneak out during lunch!

Theo:
I need to go. Read the email! We'll discuss it later.

[Theo walks out.]

ICRS Computer:
Weiss Xavier, level six. Requesting admittance.

Milgrim:
Request approved.

[Automatic doors open and close]

Weiss:
You summoned me?

Milgrim:
Good afternoon, Xavier. Please, have a seat.

Weiss:
Well, this is cozy.

Milgrim:
Size doesn't always matter, Xavier. Just because I work in a lab doesn't mean my office needs to look like one.

Weiss:
Why am I here, Felicity?

Milgrim:
I received your memo about the change on your team.

Weiss:
I have a sneaking suspicion this could have been an email.

Milgrim:
You know I'm not a fan of written correspondence.

Weiss:
Pulling people away from their work because of your inane paranoia isn't very responsible of you.

Milgrim:
Usually I come to the person, but I thought you might enjoy the change of scenery.

Weiss:
You really don't like me, do you?

Milgrim:
I'm sure the feeling's mutual. Anyway, back to what you're here for. I don't like this change.

Weiss:
Oh, sorry. It's not your call.

Milgrim:
Why did you move Dr. Ramsey off the clinical trials?

Weiss:
She requested it.

Milgrim:
Well, I don't like it. Dr. Larson is aggravating.

Weiss:
Oh, I find it to be one of his best qualities. I like the challenge.

Milgrim:
Plus, as I understand it, he isn't the one who came up with the formula for 6129.

Weiss:
Ah, as you understand it, yeah? You know full well that Theo was the one. But you also know that she and Gabe have been partners for years. They don't work separately.

Milgrim:
Then why are they separating now? Is there a problem?

Weiss:
No. Theo believes that they should be splitting their expertise between the trials and continued work on the vaccine. I agreed.

Milgrim:
Put Larson on the vaccine and Ramsey on the clinical trials.

Weiss:
That's not what Theo requested.

Milgrim:
Do you always give in to your subordinates like this?

Weiss:
I find a good working environment involves a little give and take.

Milgrim:
I agree. You give orders and your subordinates take them.

Weiss:
Well, you have your ways, and I have mine.

Milgrim:
Shouldn't the person who is most familiar with the vaccine be working with us? As a representative of this institution, you should always be striving to do the best for all of society, not just yourself.

Weiss:

Dr. Ramsey will still be available if she is needed. I doubt she'll be needed though, Dr. Larson is more than capable.

Milgrim:

And that's not good enough.

Weiss:

Well, it'll have to be, Felicity. I know you're quite used to getting what you want, but it doesn't always work out like that. This is what she wanted, and I support her.

Milgrim:

She doesn't want to be part of the trials?

Weiss:

I didn't say that.

Milgrim:

Is there a particular reason for this decision?

Weiss:

I feel that Theo's familiarity with 6129 is better utilized in testing the efficacy of the vaccine to treat rare AVS variants, as well as possible new vaccine candidates.

Milgrim:

That's ambitious.

Weiss:

Yeah, per usual for my department.

Milgrim:

That wasn't exactly a compliment.

Weiss:

It wasn't?

Milgrim:

I want Dr. Ramsey on the clinical trials team.

Weiss:

I will not force anyone on my team into doing something that may encroach upon their performance.

Milgrim:

I don't force anyone either. I, like you, am always wanting the best of the best. And I make sure that people know when they're the best. I'm very convincing.

Weiss:

I'm sure you are.

Milgrim:

Well, please let Dr. Ramsey know she'll be missed!

Weiss:
Of course.

Milgrim:
And please let Dr. Larson know that you and I do not run our departments the same way.

Weiss:
Yeah, that could be difficult, since he believes you're his equal. Felicity, are you saying I'm allowed to disclose your true role in the DHH?

Milgrim:
Just get your man in line.

Weiss:
I need to get back to work.

Milgrim:
You are dismissed.

Weiss:
Oh, thanks.

Milgrim:
You are very good at this.

Weiss:
I know.

Milgrim:
But I promise you that I'm better.

Weiss:
Have a lovely day, Felicity.

[Automatic doors open and close]

[Theme music]

DIPA:

This episode featured the voices of James David West as Gabriel Larson, Marquita Richardson as Theo Ramsey, J.K. Robbins as Xavier Weiss, Kyle Nishimura as Lincoln Larson, Kirsty Woolven as Milgrim, Marina Verlaine as Victoria Kimathy, Amanda Noriko Newman as Kate, Will Candelaria as Horatio, Marta da Silva as ICRS Computer, and me, Drea Silvertooth as DIPA.

Producer, Amanda Lorraine, Assistant Director, Van Donnell, Sound Design and Mix, Joshua Suhy. Sound recorded by Courtney Holly at Bowman Sound Studios. Original theme composer and Music Supervisor, Katharine Seaton. Additional music provided by Soundstripe Music. Virology Consultant, Peter Krug, Ph.D.

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ICRS Computer:
The ICRS is keeping the world safe.